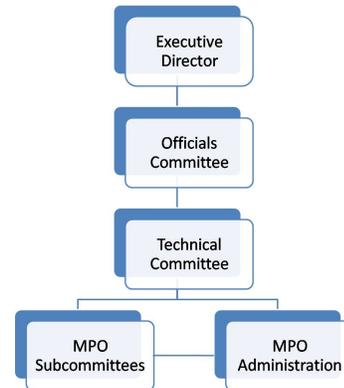


## Updating the Lincoln MPO Prospectus

Lincoln MPO staff is in the process of updating our Prospectus (a.k.a., “Operations Plan”) to ensure it is in full compliance with current Federal transportation planning regulations and is consistent with contemporary transportation planning practices. This updating process has involved participation from a variety of entities represented on the Lincoln MPO. Their participation has been and is being sought to ascertain a wide range of ideas and guidance on how to best structure the MPO.

The initial step in the updating process is nearing completion with a presentation to the MPO Technical Committee slated for June 4<sup>th</sup>; to be followed by a similar presentation to the MPO Officials Committee shortly thereafter. Assuming the recommendations are well received by the two committees, staff will prepare the formal documentation needed to adopted a new and updated Prospectus. The areas of focus during this initial review have been on the structure and working relationships of the Lincoln MPO participants.



### Committee Membership

The Lincoln MPO has two major permanent committees – the Officials Committee and the Technical Committee.

#### *Officials Committee*

The Officials Committee stands as the central policy making body for the Lincoln MPO. Its membership is composed of elected officials from the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County. Representation is drawn from the Lincoln City Council and the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners, along with the Mayor of City of Lincoln. The State of Nebraska is represented through the Governor’s Office with a senior staff member from the Nebraska Department of Roads typically serving in this role.

Since the inception of the MPO thrifty-five years ago, Lincoln’s metropolitan area has witnessed sustained growth – both in terms of its population base and its geographic size. With this recent historical pattern of urbanization the community continues to take on additional and evolving transportation challenges. This trend is proposed to be reflected in a modest reapportionment of membership on the Lincoln MPO Officials Committee.

- Mayor - City of Lincoln
- City Council Chair - City of Lincoln
- City Council Representative - City of Lincoln *(To Be Added)*
- Board of Commissioners Chair - Lancaster County
- Board of Commissioner Representative - Lancaster County
- Governor - State of Nebraska (or NDOR Designee)

This proposal will result in the expansion of the Officials Committee from five to six members, with the addition of a second City Council Representative from the City of Lincoln. The proposed membership reflects the relative symmetry of transportation planning considerations facing the Officials Committee and does not result in unilateral decision making authority being given to a single jurisdiction.

### ***Technical Committee***

The Technical Committee provides the MPO process with the professional grounding needed to support the transportation planning process. The Committee's membership draws from a broad range of engineering, planning, and administrative skills representing a host of Federal, State, and local jurisdictions. Over the life span of the Technical Committee its membership has changed with shifts in issues, guidelines, and overall community planning needs. As shown below, the proposal being brought forward is intended to retool the Committee's membership to match up better with current regulations and planning process objectives:

City-County Planning Director (Tech Committee Tri-Chair)  
Lincoln Public Works & Utilities Director (Tech Committee Tri-Chair)  
Lancaster County Engineer (Tech Committee Tri-Chair)  
City of Lincoln Urban Development Director  
City of Lincoln Parks & Recreation Director  
StarTran Transit General Manager  
City of Lincoln Engineer  
City-County Planning Department Assistant Director  
Multi-Modal Transportation Planner  
Lancaster County Engineer Design Division Head  
Health Department Air Quality Supervisor  
Lincoln Airport Authority Executive Director  
NDOR District 1 Engineer  
NDOR Planning and Project Development Manger

This revised membership roster balances jurisdictions, functionality, modal interests, and skill sets in a fashion intended to fully support the 3-C planning process.

### **Standing and Ad Hoc Subcommittees**

One of the substantive goals for our updated Prospectus is to ensure we continue to engage all pertinent entities and individuals as part of the MPO planning functions. Because of the complexity and breadth of the tasks undertaken by the MPO, it is felt a more formal subcommittee structure should be established to help meet this goal.

The approach proposed to become part of the updated Prospectus is to create a number of standing subcommittees to address specific transportation planning activities. These subcommittees are intended to meet on a regular basis (i.e., monthly to quarterly) with designated functions assigned to each subcommittee. A chairperson will be appointed for each subcommittee in order to provide continuity and to ensure the tasks assigned each subcommittee

are pursued within available resources and in accordance with set time lines. The subcommittees would be expected to report to the full Technical Committee on a regular basis concerning their assignments and discuss the impacts their subcommittee's purview has on the overall MPO planning process. As the need arises for a special topic subcommittee, "ad hoc subcommittees" would be appointed by the Technical Committee with a specific scope of work, schedule, and staff assignments.

The current proposal for the updated Prospectus would include the following subcommittees with responsibilities as shown:

**MPO Administration Subcommittee**

- Unified Planning Work Program
- Annual Self-Certification/Review
- Federal Certification
- Prospectus
- Participation Plan (including Plan updates and Environmental Justice)
- Natural resource agencies
- Citizen engagement
- Regulation review

**Programming and Funding Subcommittee**

- TIP
- Project status and funding
- Funding and Program Review
  - Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC),
  - Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities,
  - New Freedom
  - Enhancements
  - Safety Projects
  - STP
  - RTSD
  - FTA projects
  - FAA projects
- Street System Condition Inventory

**System Management & Operations Subcommittee**

- Congestion Management Process
- ITS
- Safety and Security
- Crash Study
- Freight
- Freight Operators Group

**Multi-Modal Subcommittee**

- Transit System
- Multi-use trails
- Bicycle System

- Pedestrian System
- Safe Routes to School
- ADA Transition Plan for Right-of-Way Facilities

#### **Special Studies and Projects Subcommittee**

- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Traffic Model
- Environmental and Natural Resource Issues
- Other Studies/Projects

#### **Documenting Relationship and Tasks**

As the above recommendations regarding the recrafting of the Officials and Technical Committees are being reviewed over the coming months, MPO Staff will continue to work on updating other components of the Prospectus. These involve a further detailing and characterization of the various relationships and tasks assigned to the participants in the metropolitan transportation planning process. This will include an evaluation of all facets involved in the functioning of the Lincoln MPO.

This additional work will address such elements as the roles and responsibilities for each of the participating agencies, Federally mandated transportation planning programs and studies, an affirmative public engagement structure and associated procedures, methodologies for evaluating strategies and processes, funding and capital programming, reporting requirements, and multi-modal planning activities.